

MARINE MAMMAL, SEA TURTLE, and SEABIRD INCIDENTAL TAKE LOG

The purpose of this log is to document incidentally taken marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds. Complete a record on this log for each incidental take. If more than one animal is taken at a time, record each animal on a separate line. The same log may be used for all incidental takes occurring on a trip, regardless of haul number, if they are all caught by the same vessel. (Note: For pair trawl trips, if one observer, record all incidental takes regardless of which vessel the net was hauled onboard. If two observers, only record the incidental takes that occur on the vessel you are on. Incidental takes should never be duplicated.) Do not record information on terrapins on this log. These animals should be recorded on an Individual Animal Log.

An animal must not be recorded on both the Protected Species Sighting Log and the Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log. If a dead or injured marine mammal, sea turtle, or sea bird is seen in the water during or immediately after a haulback, the observer must decide if the animal was once entangled in the gear of the vessel, *i.e.* whether the animal(s) is (are) determined to be an incidental take.

Gear or gear marks on the animal and/or damage to the fishing gear may help to distinguish incidental takes from sightings. **If at any time during an observed trip a marine mammal, sea turtle, or sea bird directly contacts the vessel, or the vessel's fishing gear AND any part of the animal is entangled, snagged, ensnared, caught, hooked, collided with, hit, injured or killed by the vessel or its gear, regardless of the final condition and release of the animal, it should be documented on the Incidental Take Log.** Single bones or disarticulated marine mammal, sea turtle, or sea bird skeletons are recorded in the species section of the Haul Log as bone, nk. Articulated ($\geq 75\%$ of skeleton) marine mammal, sea turtle, or sea bird skeletons are recorded on the Incidental Take Log and the INC TAKE? field on the corresponding Haul Log should be checked as 'yes'. Comments and photos **MUST** be provided in both instances.

Refer to the Protected Species instructions in the NEFSC Observer Program Training Manual for instructions on conducting protected species watches and

documenting sightings.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A, B** and **C**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. PSID#: A consecutive identification number (Protected Species ID) is assigned to each animal that is incidentally taken on this trip. If there are insufficient lines on one form to record all animals caught on this trip, continue listing animals on an additional Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log, making sure to fill in the preceding number.

2. HAUL NUMBER: Record the haul number assigned to the haul in which the take(s) occurred. This number must agree with the number recorded for this haul on the corresponding Haul Log.

3. GEAR NUMBER: Record the **gear number** assigned to this uniquely identified gear in which the animal is/was taken, as specified on the corresponding Gear Characteristics Log.

4. NET NUMBER/DREDGE/NET POSITION: (Gillnet, Scallop Dredge, Scallop Trawl and Twin Trawl Gear fisheries only):

Gillnet: Record the **net number** within the string in which the animal is/was taken. Start with "1", for the first net to be hauled back, and continue numbering the nets sequentially.

Scallop dredge, Scallop Trawl and Twin

Trawl Gear: Indicate which dredge/net the incidental take was associated with:

P - port; S - starboard; U - unknown; A - aft

NOTE: All other gear types should leave this field blank.

5. TIME BROUGHT UP: Record the local time using the 24 hour clock (0000-2359) that each animal is brought onboard or alongside the vessel.

Example: 20:32.

6. ACTIVE DETERRENT DEVICE CONDI-

TION: Record the condition of the active deterrent device that **immediately follows** an incidental take by recording the most appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = No Pingers Used On Gear.
- 2 = Audible.
- 3 = Inaudible, Tested and Working.
- 4 = Inaudible, Tested and Not Working.
- 5 = Inaudible, Not Tested.
- 6 = Absent (Lost).
- 9 = Other, describe in COMMENTS.

NOTE: "Tested" means the pinger signal was measured using a testing tool provided by the NEFSC Observer Program or contractor.

NOTE: If possible, record the condition of the active deterrent device that **immediately precedes** an incidental take in COMMENTS.

7. SPECIES NAME: Record the complete common name of each animal incidentally taken on this trip, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names.

NOTE: If it is not possible to make a positive species identification, identify the animal to the most specific generic group of which you are positive, *i.e.* baleen whale, unidentified dolphin, seal, hard-shelled sea turtle, *etc.* **DO NOT GUESS AT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION.**

8. SPECIES CODE: Leave this field blank.

9. TAG NUMBER(S): Record the complete alphanumeric number(s) from the tag(s) that you attach, or that were already attached, to the animal. See the Tagging & Tag Recapture instructions in the NEFSC Observer Program Training Manual for further information on recording tag numbers.

Example: D09999.

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10. TAG CODES: Indicate the origin of the tag number recorded above (#9), for each tag attached to the animal, by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Tag Applied by Observer.
- 2 = No Tag(s).
- 3 = Tags Already Present, Left On.

4 = Tags Already Present, Removed.

Example: A turtle is brought onboard the vessel with one tag, XXC123. The observer applies another tag, XXH782.

TAG	
NUMBER(S)	CODE
XXC123	3
XXH782	1

11. ENTANGLEMENT SITUATION: Indicate the initial entanglement situation of the animal by recording the most appropriate two digit code:

- 00 = Unknown.
- 01 = Fell from gear at a point unknown, *i.e.* the animal fell from the gear, but the time during haulback when this occurred is unknown.
- 02 = Fell from gear before exiting water, *i.e.* the animal was still under water when it fell from the gear.
- 03 = Fell from gear once hauled out of the water, *i.e.* the animal was mostly/completely out of the water when it fell from the gear because the weight and pulling action of the net caused the animal to fall from the gear.
- 04 = Fell from gear due to force of roller, *i.e.* the animal reached the haulback roller and the roller's force caused it to fall from the gear.
- 05 = Removal requires cutting of gear/animal, *i.e.* the gear and/or the animal is cut in order to remove the animal from the gear.
- 06 = Removal does NOT require cutting of gear/animal, *i.e.* pulling, unwrapping, unrolling, and/or detangling the gear allows the animal to be removed from the gear, without cutting the gear and/or the animal.
- 08 = Caught in wings of trawl net.
- 10 = **Sea Bird** caught, gangion attached to mainline.
- 11 = **Sea Bird** caught, gangion unattached to mainline.
- 12 = Hooked, ingested.
- 13 = Hooked, beak.
- 14 = Hooked, head.
- 15 = Hooked, flipper.

- 16 = Hooked, carapace.
- 17 = Hooked, other/unknown, describe the hooked entanglement situation in COMMENTS.
- 18 = Caught inside dredge chain bag.
- 19 = On top of dredge or dredge frame.
- 20 = Caught in dredge frame or in between bails.
- 21 = Caught inside dredge in twine top.
- 22 = Caught on sweep/tickler/rock chains.
- 23 = Caught in bridles/cables/warp.
- 24 = Inside mouth of trawl net.
- 25 = Inside belly of trawl net.
- 26 = Inside codend of trawl net.
- 27 = Caught in sweep or footrope of trawl net.
- 28 = Contact with vessel or vessel equipment other than fishing gear.
- 29 = Entangled in gear other than vessel's fishing gear (e.g. ghost gear caught by vessel)
- 99 = Other, describe the entanglement situation in COMMENTS.

NOTE: If more than one code applies to a situation choose the code that describes the primary entanglement/interaction (e.g. a turtle is observed inside the twine top of a dredge and falls from the gear as it is hauled up - choose code 21 as it best describes the primary interaction).

12. ANIMAL CONDITION: Indicate the condition of the animal **when released** by recording the most appropriate two digit code:

- 00 = Unknown, explain why you can not identify the animal condition in COMMENTS.
- 01 = Alive, see COMMENTS.
- 04 = Alive, hook/gear in/around mouth, attempt to determine where in the mouth the hook is, *etc.* and describe in COMMENTS.
- 05 = Alive, hook/gear in/around flipper, *i.e.* hook in the flipper or gear around the flipper., describe more fully in COMMENTS.
- 06 = Alive, hook/gear in/around another single body part, *i.e.* hook in the neck or plastron; specify which in COMMENTS.
- 07 = Alive, hook/gear in/around several body parts, describe more fully in COMMENTS.

- 08 = Alive, seen by captain and/or crew ONLY.
- 09 = Alive, resuscitated (turtle).
- 10 = Dead, condition unknown.
- 11 = Dead, fresh. See Figure 1.
- 12 = Dead, moderately decomposed. See Figure 2.
- 13 = Dead, severely decomposed. See Figure 3.
- 14 = Dead, seen by captain and/or crew ONLY.

NOTE: If more than one code applies, choose the code that describes the most specific condition of the animal (e.g. a turtle is alive and released with gear around the left front flipper - chose code 05 as it is the most specific).

NOTE: Per ESA Permit requirements and Northeast Fisheries Observer Program protocols, observers are required to make every effort to revive all sea turtles incidentally taken during commercial fishing operations that come on board, and are comatose (unconscious) or inactive. A resuscitated turtle is any turtle that was comatose (*i.e.*, no signs of life; unconscious; non-responsive) and later became active, possibly as a result of placing the turtle into a recovery position.

NOTE: Additional comments about the condition of the animal **must be** recorded in the COMMENTS as these data are needed for obtaining better information on the condition at the time of capture. Document how much of the animal was examined (*i.e.* only dorsal and lateral sides seen). Thoroughly describe new and/or healed wounds, the amount and location of scavenger damage and/or decomposition, the firmness and coloration of tissues, condition of the skin (*i.e.* cracked, sloughing, dull, glossy), the presence or absence of blood (record if bleeding), and any missing parts. Include descriptive comments about the animal's behavior on deck and upon release (lethargic, active, calm, vocalizing, struggling, swam away, sank, floated at

surface, righted itself, dove, breathing patterns, etc.). Also record the amount and location of gear remaining on the animal, and for sea turtles, the time required for resuscitation.

13. ONBOARD?: Indicate whether the animal was brought onboard the vessel by recording the appropriate one digit code.

- 0 = No. Note the reason the animal was not brought onboard in COMMENTS.
- 1 = Yes.

14. PHOTO(S) TAKEN?: Indicate whether any photograph(s) is (are) taken of the animal by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = No. If no photographs are taken, record the reason in COMMENTS.
- 1 = Yes.

NOTE: All marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds incidentally taken **must be** photographed as photos are necessary to assist in corroborating species identification. Only under extreme conditions should this field reflect that no photos were taken. Refer to the Photo Log instructions in the NEFSC Observer Program Manual for further information regarding which photographs to take for each incidental take species.

15. ANIMAL RECORDED ON SAMPLE LOG?: Indicate whether this animal is recorded on the Marine Mammal Biological Sample Log or the Sea Turtle Biological Sample Log by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = No. If no measurements and/or samples are taken from a marine mammal or sea turtle, record the reason in COMMENTS.
- 1 = Yes.

16. ESTIMATED LENGTH: Record, in whole centimeters, the **estimated** length of the animal.

NOTE: No lengths are taken for sea birds; leave this field blank.

NOTE: For sea turtles, the estimated length should be the Notch to Tip Length (curvilinear).

NOTE: For marine mammals, the estimated

length should be a straight line estimate of total length.

NOTE: If **actual measurements** are taken on this animal, record a dash (-) in this field. Actual measurements are recorded on the Marine Mammal Biological Sample Log and the Sea Turtle Biological Sample Log.

COMMENTS

Record any additional information regarding the incidental take(s), especially when data are unable to be collected. The COMMENTS section should include a list of identifying characteristics, details on the entanglement situation and a description of the overall condition of the animal. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to indicate "See Back" on the front. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name and PSID. Also, include any other relevant information regarding the incidental take, such as for dredge/trawl gear if the animal was seen in the dredge/net prior to dumping on deck.

NOTE: If an observer sees an animal fall from the gear (alive or dead), after completing this log, record additional comments regarding the "fallout," (i.e. the specifics of how the animal was entangled, whether the animal sank or floated away, etc.)

NOTE: For turtle takes, comment on whether the animal slid out or escaped from the gear. Comment on if and how the turtle was hooked and/or entangled. If any gear was left on the animal when released, thoroughly describe the amount of gear, including linear feet.

NOTE: For marine mammals, comment on whether the animal was released with gear. Include a description of the gear (type, material, any buoys/floats, etc.), how the animal was entangled and how much gear remained upon release.

NOTE: For sea birds, comment when animals are seen diving near setting/hauling of gear, if chasing bait, offal (entrails and internal organs of processed species), or fallouts near gear, or any details relative to how the animal(s) became entangled.

Illustrations of Various Animal Conditions (codes 11, 12 and 13)



Figure 1. Illustration of Animal Condition Code 11 (Dead, fresh).

NOTE: Illustration is of a pregnant female.



Figure 2. Illustration of Animal Condition Code 12 (Dead, moderately decomposed).



Figure 3. Illustration of Animal Condition Code 13 (Dead, severely decomposed).